

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Regional Sports Authorities

Purpose and History

The infrastructure budget appropriation for the Regional Sports Authorities funds promotion of youth sports, high school athletics, the Special Olympics, and other nonprofessional sporting events. The funds are used for marketing and other promotional efforts to attract youth sports, high school athletics, or other sporting events to the communities. In addition, the funds are used for venue rental, facility conversion, venue and equipment rental, timing systems, field preparation, and other expenses related to hosting the various sporting events.

During the 2007 Legislative Session, House File 911 (FY 2008 Infrastructure Appropriations Act) created the statutory authority for Regional Sports Authority districts. The legislation authorized the establishment of up to 10 districts and provided a process for the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to certify the districts annually. Funding is awarded to Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs) for the applicant areas. A CVB applicant may apply for certification of a Regional Sports Authority district that includes more than one city and more than one CVB within the district area.

In 2012, Senate File 2212 (Economic Development Policy Changes Act) amended the statute to require the IEDA to certify the districts on a competitive basis if more than 10 applications are received in any certification year. In addition, the revised statute requires the IEDA to consider the economic impact to the state of the activities proposed in the application, the geographic diversity of the districts applying, and any other factors the IEDA deems relevant.

Districts and Events

Districts that have certified and received state funds include: Ames CVB; Cedar Rapids CVB; Dubuque Area CVB; Council Bluffs CVB; Grinnell CVB; Quad Cities CVB; Sioux City CVB; Visit Mason City, Inc.; Waterloo CVB; Greater Des Moines CVB; Mason City CVB; and Fort Dodge CVB.

Some examples of the events that are promoted and brought to Iowa through the Regional Sports Authorities include: Iowa Special Olympic Winter Games, Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II Women's Basketball National Championship, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Super Regional Wrestling Tournament, the Iowa Summer Games Sports Festival, NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, RAGBRAI XL 40th Anniversary Celebration, Mid States Fall Horse Show, Mississippi River High School Rodeo, and the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union State Volleyball Tournament.

State Funding

Initial funding of \$500,000 was provided from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) in FY 2008. Since then, funding has remained at the same level from the RIIF annually. Between FY 2008 and FY 2016, appropriations from the RIIF totaled \$4.5 million. Each certified district in a fiscal year receives an equal share of the appropriation.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [15E.321](#)
[261](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [38](#)

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More Information

Tourism Office of the Iowa Economic Development Authority: <http://www.traveliowa.com/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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